CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

| Survey No.: PG:74B-22 | Construction Date: circa 1920-1977 |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| lame: Robinson Property | |
| N.E. | |
| Location: 3603 and 3805 Crain Highwa | ay, Mitchellville vicinity, Prince George's County |

Private/Agriculture, Private Residence/Occupied/Good/Restricted

Description:

The Robinson Property is located on the east side of Crain Highway (U.S. 301) in the Mitchellville vicinity, Prince George's County. This tract of land functioned as the Robinson family farmstead from 1873 to 1994. Currently, the property consists of two separate tax parcels containing two houses, two barns and various other outbuildings. The buildings are arranged along a gravel lane extending east from Crain Highway. The parcel adjacent to Crain Highway is known as 3805 Crain Highway and is a 20 acre (8 hectare) tract owned by Amedeo and Maria Conti. The land was subdivided from the Robinson farmstead in 1976. This parcel contains a house and garage constructed in 1977 and a circa 1920 tobacco barn. The second parcel, 3603 Crain Highway is a 64.71 acre (26 hectare) tract which remained in the Robinson family until 1994. The property contains a house constructed circa 1965, a garage constructed circa 1930, a shed built circa 1950 and a circa 1940 tobacco barn. The original house was demolished and replaced by James K. Robinson with the circa 1965 structure. 3603 Crain Highway was purchased by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1994 for conservation as open space within the Green Branch Community Park.

Significance:

The Robinson Property consists of modern residential structures with older agricultural outbuildings. This occurrence is somewhat common throughout the region. During the twentieth century, agricultural lands along the U.S. 301 corridor were attracting new settlers seeking a rural atmosphere and an easy commute to Washington D.C. and Annapolis. The completion of U.S. Route 50 in 1957 increased accessibility of the U.S. 301 corridor to major urban centers. Longneglected farmhouses were replaced with modern dwellings by new residents, while other farms were subdivided into suburban 'farmettes'. The subdivided farm parcels often contained older farm outbuildings which continued in use. The residences on the Robinson Property are common building types which were not constructed during an historic period. The agricultural outbuildings are ubiquitous to the region. Evaluated in its entirety, the farmstead lacks buildings of architectural, material, design or historical significance.

Preparer: P.A.C. Spero & Company November 1998

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

| DOE _ | yes _ | no |
|-------|-------|----|
|-------|-------|----|

| 1. Name (in | dicate preferred name) | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| historic Robinson Pro | operty (Preferred) | | | |
| and/or common Mary | land-National Capital Pa | rk and Planning Commis | sion / Conti Property | |
| 2. Location | | | | |
| street & number 3603 | and 3805 Northeast Cra | in Highway | | not for publication |
| city, town Mitchellville | • | _X | _ vicinity of co | ongressional district |
| state Maryland | | | county Prince Geo | orge's |
| 3. Classific | ation | | | |
| Categorydistrict _X_building(s)structuresiteobject | OwnershipX_publicX_privateboth Public Acquisitionin processbeing consideredX_not applicable | Status _X_occupiedunoccupiedwork in progress Accessible _X_yes: restrictedyes: unrestrictedno | Present Use X agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military | museumpark _X_private residencereligiousscientifictransportationother: |
| 4. Owner of | Property (giv | e names and mailing ad | dresses of <u>all</u> owners) | |
| name Maryland-Natio | nal Capital Park and Pla | nning Commission / Am | edo and Maria Conti | |
| street & number 6600 | 0 Kenilworth Avenue / 38 | 05 Northeast Crain High | way | telephone no.: |
| city,town Riverdale | / Mitchellville | | state and zip | code MD 20737 / 20717 |
| 5. Location | of Legal Des | cription | | |
| courthouse, registry of | f deeds, etc. Land Recor | ds Office of Prince Geor | ge's County | liber 9922 / 4686 |
| street & number 1474 | 1 Governor Oden Bowie | Drive | | folio 150 / 380 |
| city,town Upper Marlt | ooro | | | state Maryland |
| 6. Represer | ntation in Exis | sting Historic | al Surveys | |
| title | * | | | |
| date | | | federal | _statecountylocal |
| depository for survey | records | | | |
| city,town | | | | state |
| | | | | |

| 7. Descri | ption | Survey No. PG:74B-22 | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | | |
| excellent good | deteriorated ruins | unaltered X_altered | X_original site moved | date of move | |

Resource Count: 7

unexposed

X_fair

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Robinson Property is located on the east side of Crain Highway (U.S. 301) in the Mitchellville vicinity, Prince George's County. This tract of land functioned as the Robinson family farmstead from 1873 to 1994. Currently, the property consists of two separate tax parcels containing two houses, two barns and various other outbuildings. The buildings are arranged along a gravel lane extending east from Crain Highway. The parcel adjacent to Crain Highway is known as 3805 Crain Highway and is a 20 acre (8 hectare) tract owned by Amedeo and Maria Conti. The land was subdivided from the Robinson farmstead in 1976. This parcel contains a house and garage constructed in 1977 and a circa 1920 tobacco bam. The second parcel, 3603 Crain Highway is a 64.71 acre (26 hectare) tract which remained in the Robinson family until 1994. The property contains a house constructed circa 1965, a garage constructed circa 1930, a shed built circa 1950 and a circa 1940 tobacco barn. The original house was demolished and replaced by James K. Robinson with the circa 1965 structure. 3603 Crain Highway was purchased by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1994 for conservation as open space within the Green Branch Community Park.

The 20 acre (8 hectare) parcel at 3805 Crain Highway contains a house, garage and tobacco barn. The gravel lane which extends east from Crain Highway separates the house and garage on the south side of the lane from the tobacco barn on the north side of the lane. The house, constructed in 1977, is a wood-frame, split-level building with a brick and aluminum sided exterior. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the windows are wood double-hung units. The detached garage building is located east of the house. Contemporary with the house, the front-gable garage is a 2-story wood-frame building with an apartment unit on the second story. The exterior is covered with brick and aluminum siding. The first story has a wood overhead door, while the second story has an entrance and vinyl 1/1 double-hung windows. The tobacco barn, constructed circa 1920, is located north of the house and garage. The wood-frame building is supported by concrete piers, has vertical wood siding and a standing-seam metal roof. The barn is oriented east-west, adjacent to the gravel lane. Wood double-doors are located on the south, long side of the barn. The southern roof slope has been raised, enlarging the capacity of the loft and increasing the amount of southern exposure to the drying tobacco crop.

Located at the end of the gravel lane, east of the previously mentioned buildings, is 3603 Crain Highway. This cluster of buildings include a circa 1965 house, circa 1930 garage, circa 1950 shed and circa 1940 tobacco barn. The present house is located at the site of the original Robinson farmhouse. The house is a 1-story brick structure with a side-gable roof and frontgable porch. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the windows are wood 2/2 double-hung units with horizontally divided lights. South of the house is a small 1-story wood-frame garage. The garage has a front-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The structure rests on a concrete slab and is covered with modern textured plywood. The north elevation has an open garage bay. A shed is located adjacent to the garage. Constructed circa 1950, the concrete block structure has a side-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles and two enclosed openings on the north elevation. Located south of the house and outbuildings is a tobacco barn. Constructed circa 1940, the building has a concrete block foundation, vertical wood siding and a standing-seam metal roof. The building has hinged ventilators and double doors on the gable ends. The south gable end also has an open bay for equipment storage.

The property is located within a rapidly growing section of Prince George's County in close proximity to U.S. Route 50 (John Hanson Highway). Heavy commercialization has occurred to the north of the property and high-density residential developments are under construction to the west. The Robinson Property is part of a small agricultural community of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century farmsteads along Crain Highway and Mill Branch Road.

| 9 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------|------------------|--|---|--------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Periodprehistoric1400-14991500-15991600-16991700-17991800-18991900- | Areas of Signarchaeology-l _agriculturearchitectureartcommercecommunicat | -prehistoric | oric . - - | comm _conser _econo _educa _engine | nunity planvation mics tion eering ation/settle | inning | law litera milit mus philo | ature ary ic osophy | architecture ernment | religionsciencesculpturesocial/ humanitariantheatertransportation _other (specify |
| Specific dates | s circa 1920 - | 1977 | | | | Bu | ilder/Arc | hitect | Unknown | |
| check: Applic | | A | В | c | D | | | | | |
| Applic | able Exception: | A | B | c | D | E | F | G | | |

Survey No. PG:74B-22

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

state

local

national

8. Significance

Level of Significance:

The Robinson Property was purchased in May 1873 by James G. Robinson from the trustees appointed by the Circuit Court in the case of Charles Gambill versus Elizabeth Hamilton. James G. Robinson purchased 97.5 acres (39.5 hectares) of real estate in Prince George's County called "Gantts Field." A house was constructed on the property circa 1875. The building appears on the 1878 edition of G. M. Hopkins' Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the County of Prince George's, Maryland. After Robinson's death, the property was transferred to his wife Nellie Robinson. She willed the property to her son and daughter-in-law, Roger and Jennie Robinson. During their ownership, they transferred approximately 9 acres (3.6 hectares) of the property. Of the 9 acres (3.6 hectares), 3 acres (1.2 hectares) were transferred to Harriet Robinson in 1946 and 6 acres (2.4 hectares) to Mrs. Helen Phelps in 1958. Upon Roger Robinson's death, the remaining land, assessed as 85.255 acres (34.5 hectares), passed to James K. and Harriet Robinson. In 1965, the old farmhouse was replaced with the current 1-story brick dwelling at 3606 Crain Highway. The Robinsons sold 20 acres (8 hectares) to Amedeo and Maria Conti in 1976, retaining a right-of-way for the farm road. There was a covenant placed on the property forbidding the subdivision of the land for 15 years or until the remaining 65 acres (26.3 hectares) had been subdivided into 5 or more parcels. James K. and Harriet Robinson sold the remaining 65 acres (26.3 hectares) to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1994 as open space. Restrictions placed on the land prevent it from being developed without written approval and replacement of the land with an equivalent land area. The M-NCPPC and the Contis remain the current owners.

Since the original farmhouse is no longer extant, the tobacco barns are the remaining buildings which represent the historic use and occupation of the property. The production of tobacco created the need for a barn designed for the special storage and "curing" of the crop. The structures were long, wooden buildings with a gable roof. The interior had a central aisle and was divided into compartments by a network of wooden beams and "tie-poles." From these beams the tobacco was hung and allowed to naturally air-dry. To facilitate the curing process, the barns were designed with several methods of ventilation. Many barns had windows or ventilators near the roof ridge, while others had vertical boards which were hinged for vent openings or loosely spaced. Another common feature was the elevation of the barn on "legs" which provided air circulation from below the barn.

The Robinson Property consists of modern residential structures with older agricultural outbuildings. This occurrence is common throughout the region. During the twentieth century, agricultural property along the U.S. 301 corridor was attracting new settlers seeking a rural atmosphere and an easy commute to Washington D.C. and Annapolis. The completion of U.S. Route 50 in 1957 increased accessibility of the U.S. 301 corridor to major urban centers. Longneglected farmhouses were replaced with modern dwellings by new residents, while other farms were subdivided into suburban 'farmettes'. The subdivided farm parcels often contained older farm buildings which continued in use.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Robinson Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:74B-22

ADDRESS: 3606 and 3508 Crain Highway, Mitchellville vicinity, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed between circa 1920 and 1977, the extant buildings on the Robinson Property are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Since all structures dating to the original occupation of the property are no longer extant, the property does not retain sufficient integrity to convey National Register significance. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state, or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as the remaining structures are ubiquitous building types which lack individual significance.

| Eligibility recommendedComments | MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST Eligibility Not Recommended |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Reviewer, OPS: Reviewer, NR Program: | Date: 120/99 Date: 4/4/00 |

| 9. Major Biblio | graphical R | eference | Survey No. PG:74B-22 |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| See Attached | | | |
| 10. Geographic | al Data | | |
| Acreage of nominated propert Quadrangle name _Bowie, M | | | Quadrangle scale 1:24,000 |
| Verbal boundary description | n and justification | | |
| List all states and counties | for properties overl | apping state or o | county boundaries |
| state | code | county | code |
| state | code | county | code |
| 11. Form Prepa | red By | | × |
| name/title Tim Tamburrino | | | |
| organization P.A.C. Spero & | Company | | date November, 1998 |

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

telephone (410) 296-1635

state Maryland

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

city or town Baltimore

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

Maryland Historical Trust

DHCP/DHCD

100 Community Place

Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

(410) 514-7600

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Robinson Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:74B-22

ADDRESS: 3603 and 3805 Crain Highway, Mitchellville vicinity, Prince George's County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Boucher, Jack E. 1993. Landmarks of Prince George's County, Maryland. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.

Bowie, Effie Gwynn. 1975. Across the Years in Prince George's County. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. 1988. <u>American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940</u>. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press.

Gowans, Alan. 1992. Styles and Types of North American Architecture. New York: Harper Collins.

Hopkins, G. M. 1975. Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Prince George, Maryland. Riverdale, Maryland: Reprint by the Prince George's County Historical Society.

Martenet, Simon J. 1996. Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1861. Riverdale, Maryland: Reprint by the Prince George's County Historical Society.

Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission. 1993. <u>Illustrated Inventory of Historic Sites, Prince George's County, Maryland</u>. Upper Marlboro.

Pearl, Susan G., Marina King and Howard S. Berger. 1991. <u>Historic Contexts in Prince George's County</u>. Upper Marlboro: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Prince George's County Land Records Office. County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro, MD.

Prince George's County Office of Assessments and Taxation. Prince George's County Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, MD.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

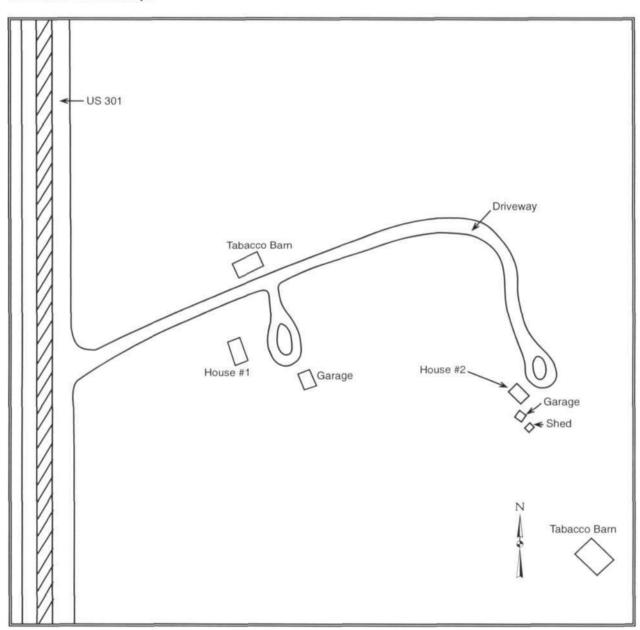
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM RESOURCE NAME: Robinson Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:74B-22

ADDRESS: 3603 and 3805 Crain Highway, Mitchellville Vicinity, Prince George's County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



Page 10.1 P.A.C. Spero & Company November 1998

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Robinson Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:74B-22

ADDRESS: 3603 and 3805 Crain Highway, Mitchellville vicinity, Prince George's County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930 Modern Period, A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Agriculture Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Buildings

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Agriculture Private Residence

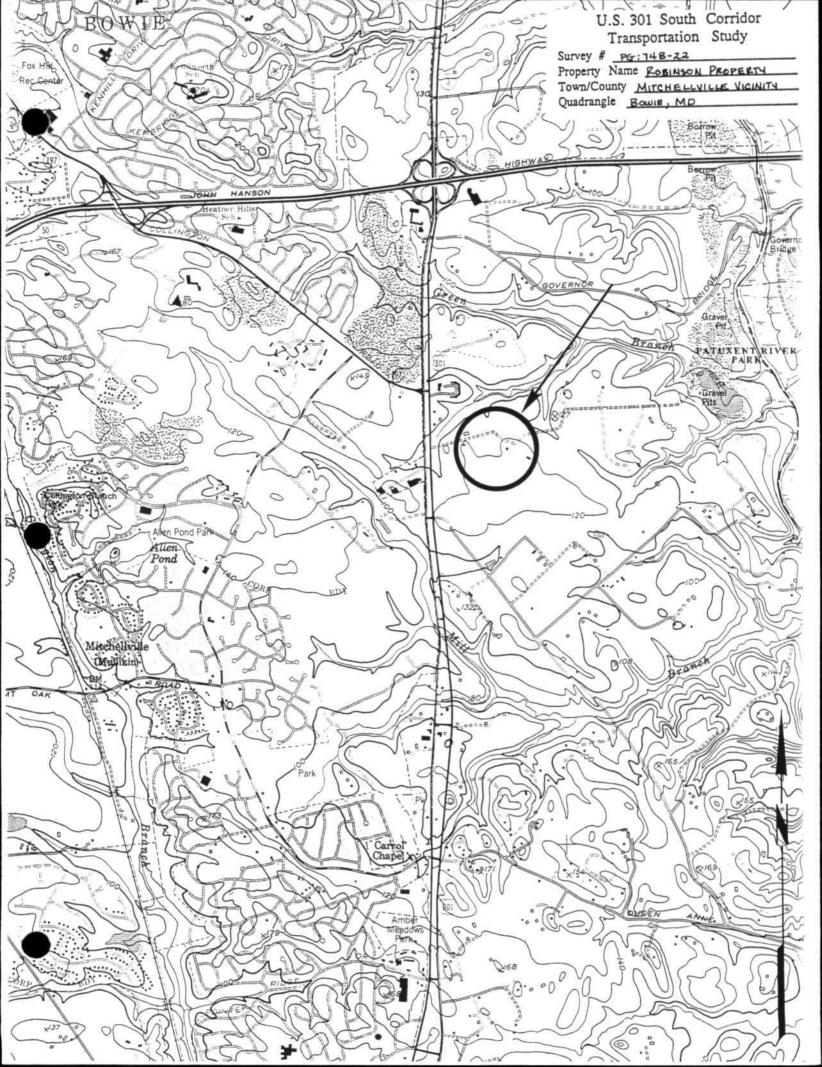
Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer:

P.A.C. Spero & Company

November 1998





PG: 74B-22 ROBINSON PROPERTY PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD TO TAMBURRINO 3805 NE CRAIN HOUY, HOUSE #1, FROM SW



PG: 748-22 ROBINSON PROPERTY PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD TIM TAMBURRNO 3805 NE CRAW HUY, GARAGE, FROM S



ROBINSON PROPERTY PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD T. TAMBURRINO 3805 NE CRAIN HOUY, BARN, S ELEVATION



748-22 ROBINSON PROPERTY
PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD
T. TAMBURRING 11-98 3805 NE CRAIN HUY, BARN, WEND



PG:748-22 ROBINSON PROPERTY PRINCE GEORGES CO, MO T. TAMBURRINO MO SHPO 3805 NE CRAIN HOW, BARN, E END



PG: 748-22 ROBINSON PROPERTY PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD T. TAMBURRINO 11-98 MD SHPO 3603 NE CRAIN HWY, HOUSE 2, FROM S



PG: 748-22 ROBINSON PROPERTY PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD T. TAM BURRINO MD SHPO 3603 NE CRAIN HWY, GARAGE + SHED, FROM



PG: 748-22 ROBINSON PROPERTY PRINCE GEORGE'S G., MD T. TAMBURRINO MD SHPO 3603 NE CRAIN HOW, TOBACCO BARN, FROM SE



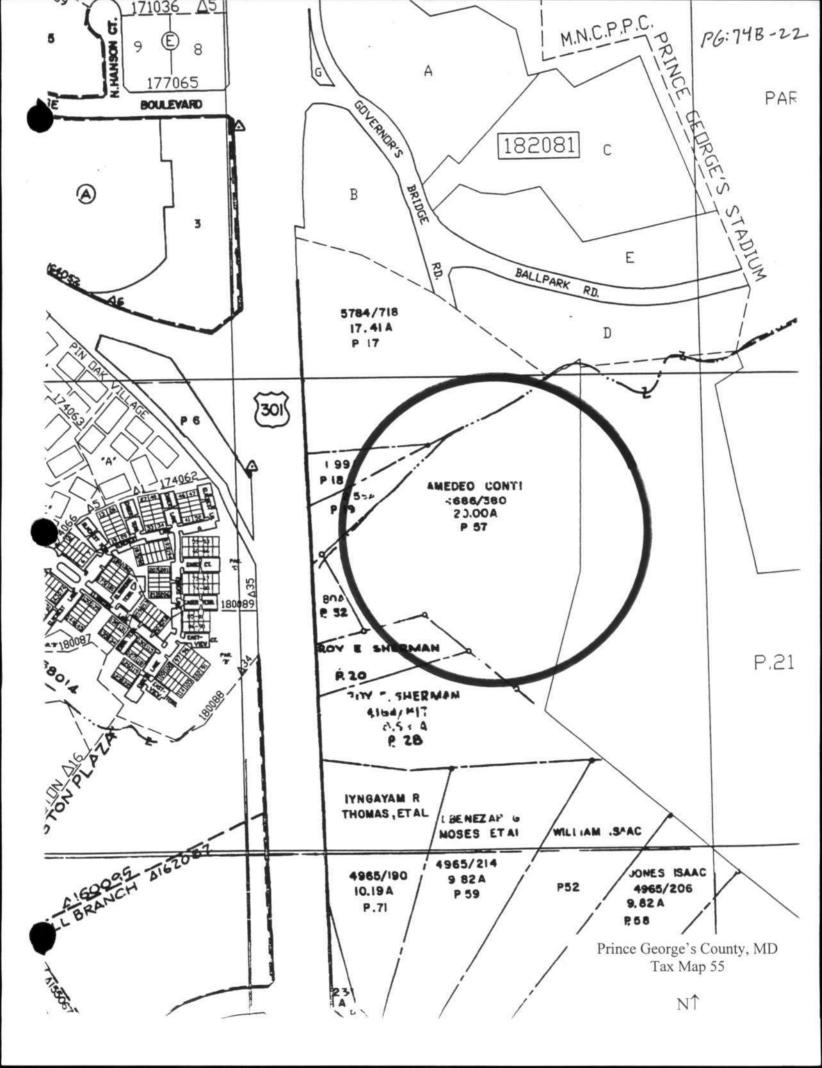
PG: 748-22 ROBINSON PROPERTY PRINCE GEORGES CO., MD T. TAMBURRINO MD SHPO 3603 NE CRAIN HWY, TOBACCO BARN, FROM

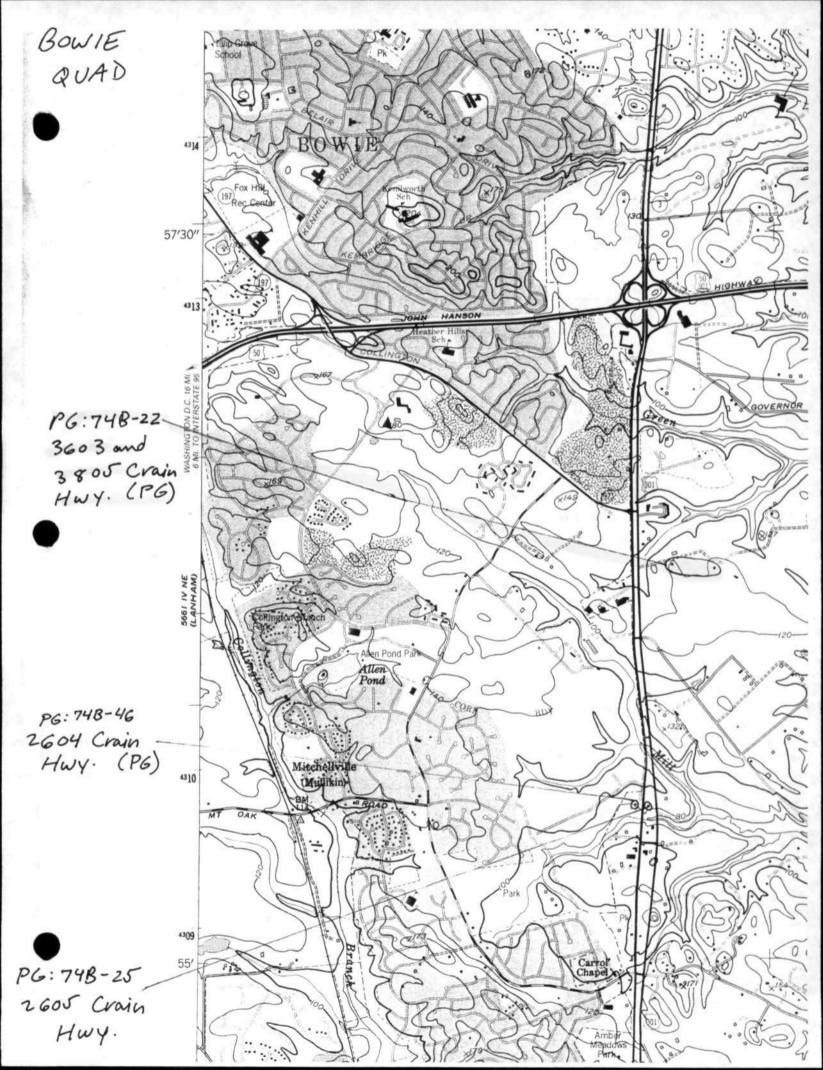
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Date

| Property Name: Inventory Number: 61-0132 |
|--|
| Address: 3805 Crain Highway, NE, Prince George's County - in the Vianity of Bowie |
| Owner: Conti, Amedeo and Maria |
| Tax Parcel Number: 57 Tax Map Number: 55 |
| Project MD 301 Agency State Highway Administration (SHA) |
| Site visit by SHA Staff: X no yes Name: Date: |
| Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended _X |
| Criteria A B C D |
| Is property located within a historic district?: X no _ yes Name of District: |
| Is district listed?: X no yes |
| Documentation on the property/district is presented in: <u>Project Review and Compliance Files</u> |
| Description of Property and Eligibility Determination (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo) |
| The two-story brick and siding house is a vernacular design. The two-story section of the house has a hipped roof and is intersected by a one-story section with a front gable roof that extends at a slope toward the west. A small pent roof projects from the front gable and serves as the roof over the main entrance. |
| The States Road Commission began construction of the Robert Crain Highway (later US 301) in 1922. Crain Highway was designed to link southern Maryland's rural areas to northern Maryland's urban areas. With the introduction of a better road system, limited development was allowed to flourish along the corridors and within the rural areas of southern Maryland. When the Nice Memorial Bridge was completed in 1940 and linked the Virginia side of the Potomac to the Maryland side in Charles County, Crain Highway served as a bypass between Florida and New York. Crain Highway was widened in 1950 to handle the increase in traffic. |
| The c. 1960 is not eligible for the National Register. The resource lacks significance related to events, persons, or architecture. Criterion D, information potential, was not assessed for this study. |
| Prepared by EHT Traceries, Inc. |
| MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW Eligibility recommended _ Eligibility not recommended Criteria: _ A _ B _ C _ D _ E _ F _ G _ None |
| Delm 1 10/16/99 |
| Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services / Date |

Reviewer, NR Program







PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
JULY 1999
MD SHPO
VIEW LOOKING NORTH